

Historic Preservation Month

One hundred years ago or more, Pittsford looked quite similar to many other towns and settlements of similar size in the region. Rolling farm fields, bustling villages, and homesteads dotting the roadways typified much of what you'd find around western New York. Today, Pittsford generally is regarded as distinctive in its way, for the extent to which it has retained so much of its historic architecture and character. This hasn't happened by accident. Pittsford has been fortunate, going back many years, to have had citizens involved in practices and concepts of historic preservation in our community.

In that spirit, at its last meeting the Town Board adopted a resolution proclaiming May as Historic Preservation month in Pittsford. This recognizes the traditional designation of May as Historic Preservation Month by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Each week during the month, the Town's newsletter and website will highlight some of Pittsford's historically designated properties. Across the country, such designation has proven to be a significant factor in providing for the long-term preservation of historic property and community heritage. In Pittsford this is the province of our volunteer Design Review and Historic Preservation Board. It works step-by-step with eligible property owners in moving through the process to historic designation. This status is intended to protect the cultural and aesthetic integrity of a property for years to come.

From the most modest bungalow to the most stately home or unique commercial building, all help tell the story of our community's heritage – how people lived, worked and socialized. All are eligible to be considered for historic status. All help maintain a unique sense of character and place in the community. Preserved historic properties can have a positive impact on property values community-wide.

Check our website at www.townofpittsford.org through the month of May to learn about some of Pittsford's designated historic properties. Weather permitting, join us if you can on May 1, on the steps of Town Hall at 2:00 pm as we formally proclaim May as Historic Preservation Month in Pittsford.

Pittsford remains committed to maintaining the quality of life and unique character of our community through historic preservation. If you're interested in learning more about the historic designation process, or if you have other questions or comments, please stop by my office in Town Hall, call me at 248-6220 or send a message to bsmith@townofpittsford.org. To stay abreast of Town news, you can sign up for our weekly eNews at www.townofpittsford.org.